

Living Water

A Monthly Publication of the
Five Rivers District

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A WORD FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

As we enter the new year, my hope and prayer is that the will of God will be done in our lives and in our communities of faith. I know that within God's will for each of us is a sense of hope, purpose, wholeness, well-being, service, and love. We are blessed in the doing of God's will. We are renewed in grace and given new strength to serve the God of our existence.

John Wesley's Watch Night service, held on the eve of the new year, has been a tradition within the United Methodist Church and remains so for many congregations. In this service the focus is on our covenant with God. It is a time for recommitting ourselves to live within our relationship with God and to serve and love God with all of our beings. The prophet Jeremiah speaks to us about covenant:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:31-33

I invite you to join with me in recommitting ourselves to the service of God. We do so knowing that we are blessed in the doing of it. Join with me in earnestly praying the Covenant Prayer that Wesley has given to us:

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

So be it....
Blessings in the new year!



IRS Standard Mileage Rates for 2013:

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2013, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be

- 56.5 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

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January 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January Calendar

Dec. 24-Jan. 1st District Office is closed for Christmas and New Year’s Holidays

Jan. 6th Lawrence 1st Church Conference, Noon to 2 p.m.
Downtown location

Jan. 15-17th Joint Called Clergy Session ~ Kearney, NE.

Jan. 28-29th Cabinet Inventory, DS in Wichita

Jan. 30th Tables I, II, and III are due

Save The Date:

- Feb. 1st Clergy and Families Epiphany Dinner
- Feb. 5th Clergy Meeting ~ 9 a.m.
- Feb. 10th Webinar 3-4:30 Presentation of Great Plains Annual Conf. Plans from the Transitional Team
- Feb. 9th District Leadership Training

District Prayer Calendar:

- Jan. 6 Waverly/Prairie View
Rev. Nancy Liston
- Jan. 13 Osawatomie/Lane
Pastor Gary Gooding
- Jan.20 Moran/Bronson
Interim Pastor Rev. Jim Stigall
- Jan.27 Elsmore/Mildred
Pastor Connie Cox

TURKEY CREEK PLANS CHILD FRIENDLY/CHURCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BY REV. MARCIA EATON

Seventeen children gathered on December 1st to help decorate the Turkey Creek UMC sanctuary for Christmas and then to make gingerbread houses. The houses were made by applying graham crackers to milk cartons with frosting, and then decorating the houses with a variety of candy. The adult helpers had as much fun as the children.

This event was one of several held in 2012 by the newly formed Committee for Children and Church Family Activities. Last year, the Turkey Creek Church felt the need to become more active in programming for children. "Children are the future of our church" was heard at many different church gatherings. One young mother shared the feelings of many by saying that she wanted her children to grow up with the same church experiences she had. Experiences that gave her a firm faith foundation and made her feel part of a loving and active church family.

The newly formed committee planned several events for 2012 including continuing the annual Easter Egg Hunt and repeating a successful fall family night from 2011. The committee added a church family game night in March (attended by people from ages under 2 through the mid 80's), a one day VBS ending with a church BBQ, a Prayer Partner event during Lent ending with a Palm Sunday Breakfast. All of these events were planned and carried through by the laity of the church.

The gingerbread house making event had not been on the original list. This idea came from the children attending the VBS. Shannon Culver, Chair of the new committee, immediately acted on the children's enthusiasm.

Turkey Creek United Methodist Church is located in rural Yates Center.



"Children are the future of our church"



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3300 Clinton Parkway Ct. Suite 110
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Happy 10th Birthday to
Kincaid Selma UMC on Sunday,
Dec. 16th

2013 Interpreter magazine enrollment
Each United Methodist congregation is eligible to receive 10 complementary subscriptions (five print, five digital) to Interpreter magazine for their church leaders.

To enroll for 2013, visit www.umcom.org/subscriptions. You will need your church customer number and password. If you have questions, contact customer service at 888-



Pastor Bill Nelson